
From: Greg Yost [gregorybyost@gmail.com]
Sent: 9/15/2017 6:34:14 AM
To: Tarr, Jeremy M [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=98859532088e4437968231eb6fef6b70-jmtarr1]
Subject: Re: just missed you here in front of DEQ

Ha! I want you to know that after pressing send on my earlier email, I was more than a little embarrassed by the image it conjured (you, breathlessly entering the governor's office, printout of my letter in hand, "Sir, we've just received this important correspondence from a constituent"...) I hope you'll write that one off to my fast-addled brain.

Anyway, your response was very diplomatic and much appreciated. Knowing that the governor's office and DEQ listens, and really listens, is important to us. I tell people that if McCrory were still governor, we'd likely be gearing up for Son of DAPL right now instead of engaging in dialogue.

In light of Water Quality's announcement last night on the website, we'll be ending our fast and our presence at DEQ this morning. I'm going to drop a card by their front desk later this morning to say goodbye and let them know that we appreciate their work. To them and to the governor's office, please know that we regard ourselves as your allies in protecting and creating a clean, prosperous, and livable future for the people of North Carolina.

Now it's back to the mountains for me to break this fast with family tonight. Take care, Jeremy, and have a great day!

On Fri, Sep 15, 2017 at 5:37 AM, Tarr, Jeremy M <jeremy.tarr@nc.gov> wrote:
Greg,

Thank you for sharing your letter with me. Want to make sure you know that I and others in the Governor's Office are aware of your views, fast, and letter. Sorry I couldn't stop and say hello today when I waked by. Look forward to meeting in person next time.

Jeremy

Sent from mobile phone.

On Sep 12, 2017, at 2:16 PM, Greg Yost <gregorybyost@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi, Jeremy. I was in the car doing media work. I'm sorry we didn't get a chance to speak when you spoke to Maple a moment ago at our "fasting station" here by DEQ. Maybe this message will be waiting for you in your inbox when you get back to the office.

I hope this won't seem presumptuous to ask of you, but I wonder if you wouldn't mind bringing my letter below to the Governor's attention at an appropriate time. I will submit it through the contact box on the administration website, too, but you can probably understand a writer's concern that his/her letter not be lost in the electronic pile. And I do think that what I've written is worth his consideration.

Thanks for your work. Kay speaks highly of you.

September 12, 2017

Dear Governor Cooper,

I'm writing to encourage DEQ and your administration to deny the 401 water permit currently under consideration for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. But rather than enumerating specific issues that the pipeline company fails to adequately address in its permit application, I'd like to tell you why I believe that history will judge this decision to be the most important of your governorship.

I am in the midst (day #8) of a 14 day water-only fast upon the steps of the DEQ office here in Raleigh. I'm a public high school teacher from Madison County. At the end of the 2016 school year, however, I left the job and the school that I love in order to devote myself to stopping the ACP. My reasoning: the ACP portends disaster for North Carolina in that it is the lynch pin of Duke Energy's plan for a wholesale transition to gas-sourced electricity. Duke wants to build 15 new gas plants by 2030 while only investing a pittance into our real future: safe, affordable, clean energy from wind and sun, with new battery storage and grid management technology as the final piece of the puzzle.

Please know that what you're reading is not the wistful longing of a fragile, environmentally-sensitive soul. I'm a climate realist. The overwhelming scientific consensus is that years of inaction have now brought us to the edge of climate disaster. Moreover, I'm aware of the recent work of scientists such as Cornell's Dr. Robert Howarth which demonstrate the outsized contribution of gas extraction and fugitive methane emissions to runaway climate change. That's why I quit my job (and halved my family's income in the process). My young students will not have time to recover from the mistakes that you and I will make today if we build the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, thereby making a one time, generational investment in dirty, outmoded energy technology. Pipelines and gas plants, once built, will shackle us to this expensive and life threatening fuel for decades to come.

Governor Cooper, I believe this is a moment for your courageous leadership, yet I also believe that you will not be alone when your administration denies this permit. You probably understand even better than I how since 2010 North Carolinians have had their fill of cynical political calculation and are now starved for good government. Last March I helped organize a continuous 180 mile walk along the proposed route of the pipeline through the eight impacted counties (including Nash Co., your own home). The people in impacted communities in the East will join citizens across the entire state in recognizing a bold departure from business as usual in North Carolina when you reject the ACP. This state yearns for substantive political leadership. You have this opportunity to deliver it on an issue that will be scrutinized by future historians.

Governor, thank you for reading my letter. For our state, the health of its democracy, the integrity of its natural resources, the safety and well being of its citizens, and most importantly, the future of its young people, I urge your administration to deny the 401 water permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Sincerely,

Greg Yost

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